CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 – 19.   (canceled)

1   20.   (new)   A locking element for holding together

2   threaded parts such as screws and nuts against undesired loosening,

3   the locking element comprising two annular lock washers lying on

4   each other and having center holes, the washers having inner faces

5   lying on each other and provided with teeth and outer faces turned

6   away from each other and also provided with teeth, one of the

7   washers being formed at the respective center hole on the

8   respective outer face with a rounding.

1   21.   (new)   The locking element defined in claim 21,

2   wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are oriented off-

3   radial.

1   22.   (new)   The locking element defined in claim 21,

2   wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are V-shaped.

1   23.   (new)   The locking element defined in claim 21,

2   wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are U-shaped.

1   24.   (new)   The locking element defined in claim 21,

2   wherein edges of the teeth of the inner faces are S-shaped.

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1   25. (new) The locking element defined in claim 21,
2   wherein edges of the teeth of the outer faces are arcuate.

1   26. (new) The locking element defined in claim 20,
2   further comprising a sleeve connecting the lock washers to each
3   other and fitting around outer surfaces of the washers.

1   27. (new) The locking element defined in claim 26,
2   wherein the sleeve has at leat one lip that projects inward over or
3   into an edge of at least one of the lock washers.

1   28. (new) The locking element defined in claim 27,
2   wherein the lip is annular.

1   29. (new) The locking element defined in claim 27,
2   wherein the lip is formed by tabs.

1   30. (new) The locking element defined in claim 27,
2   wherein the lip is formed by annular segments.

1   31. (new) The locking element defined in claim 26,
2   wherein the sleeve is a slotted ring.

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1   32.   (new)   The locking element defined in claim 26,

2   wherein a transition between the sleeve and the lip has a rounding

3   or a chamfer.

1   33.   (new)   The locking element defined in claim 26,

2   wherein eacg of the lock washers has a groove for receiving a

3   respective lip of the sleeve.